



April 16, 2010

Dear Region IV RAC Members,

As most of you are aware the Women's and Children's Alliance (WCA) has been an approved specialty provider for Level 3.1 services for PWWC clients (women and their children) since the mid 1990's. It is therefore with mixed feelings that I am writing this letter. After careful consideration we have decided to drop out of the state network effective April 30, 2010. This decision was based on many factors centering on the new IDAPPA regulations. Just a few of those are:

- Background check of all volunteers (which our organization uses over a hundred a year for a variety of things from answering the phone at the front desk to making copies). While we background check any volunteers who work 1:1 with clients or who work in the shelter itself we do not background check all who work in the admin office. The way that IDAPPA was worded would require these to have checks as well and this would be very costly.
- Configuration and size of rooms (each of our families are in private rooms with 1 or two sets of bunk beds, depending on size of room, and the bottom bunks have pull out trundles. If the mom has an infant a portable crib is brought in and then room would be too small for new regulations). The new regulations would require us to split up families, placing some children in their own room which would reduce the number of clients we could serve.
- The state's final decision to not consider licensed professional counselors and clinical social workers as qualified professionals even though it is within their scope of practice to assess, diagnose and treat substance use disorders, while at the same time accepting individuals without a bachelor's degree who are unable to diagnose QP's and who do not hold a license does not match the philosophy of the WCA, especially in light of the emphasis towards treating co-occurring disorders.

I do want each of you to know that even though we will no longer be in the SUD State treatment network we do plan to continue to serve clients as we always have (we just won't be paid out of state treatment funds). We will refer those with SUD diagnoses to BPA for screening. If they are not screened in due to the current budget crisis we will treat them in individual counseling at the WCA and will refer them to other community supports (i.e. 12 Step Groups or Celebrate Recovery). We are also exploring the idea of hosting a women's only 12 step group at our facility and offering on-site child care. We are planning to continue to provide quality prevention programs through our Nurturing Parenting Classes, as well. We do look forward to our continued work with each of you, though our role may be changing. If you have a woman who is being abused in one of your groups and she needs a safe place to live, please do not hesitate in referring her to call our crisis line at 343-7025. If you would like more information on our programs, please give me a call directly at 343-

3688 ext. 25. I do plan to attend some RAC meetings in the future or will be sending other staff periodically.

I wish each of you the best of luck in these tough economic times and want you all to know what a pleasure it has been working with you over the years. We do appreciate how supportive BPA has been during the many transitions the past few years and want to publically thank them. I would also like to recognize the department in their on-going effort to ensure quality care for clients with dwindling treatment dollars. Even if we don't always see things the same way I truly believe we all want what is best for the clients we serve. Thank you.

Sincerely,

LaDessa

LaDessa Foster, LCPC, NCC
Clinical Services Manager